

improve their facilities and educational materials for these students. Further, it will establish a national center to provide support services and best practices to colleges to best serve students with disabilities and their families.

The legislation also responds to the tragedy at Virginia Tech by helping colleges to develop and implement state-of-the-art emergency systems and campus safety plans. Following a recommendation from college campus safety directors, the bill creates a National Center for Campus Safety to work in collaboration with the COPS program.

The bill also contains provisions, which I wrote into the measure, to strengthen our workforce and our Nation's competitiveness.

The bill would implement my initiative to provide loan forgiveness for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math) employees who work in those fields. My initiative also establishes a loan forgiveness program for foreign language specialists who work as teachers or Government employees.

The legislation creates a Deputy Assistant Secretary for International and Foreign Language Education in the Department of Education. Based on legislation that I wrote, the executive-level officer would provide leadership in directing efforts aimed at international and foreign language education.

The measure establishes a program that I championed, the Science and Technology Advanced Foreign Language Grants program, to award funding to institutions of higher education to create programs that encourage students to develop foreign language proficiency as well as science and technological knowledge.

Based on my work, the bill develops the Mathematics & Science Scholars Program to grants and loan forgiveness to math and science students who commit to 5 consecutive years of service in a math or science field after graduation.

Included in the bill is my legislation to establish a National STEM Database to provide students with information on financial assistance for postsecondary and graduate programs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This important database will help capable students who are interested in STEM careers find scholarships to support their studies.

I am pleased that the measure includes the "Preparing Teachers for Digital Age Learners" program to help teacher candidates effectively integrate technology in the classroom. The program, which I advocated for, would work with teaching candidates on how they can bring modern digital tools in the classroom.

Additionally, the bill incorporates my legislation, the Nursing School Capacity Act, which requires the Institute of Medicine to explore the constraints that the Nation's schools of nursing face and propose short and long term solutions to address the nursing crisis.

Finally, based on my efforts the bill improves The "Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools" Program to empower small and community colleges to provide child care to working mothers so they can attend school.

Each of these provisions and the many more contained in the final Act will have positive impacts on our Nation and I am pleased that they soon will be implemented into law.

ENERGY COSTS

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, today the House leaves on its 5 week vacation just like we do every year. Generally we are joined by millions of American families as they get out of town before the start of the school year, but this year things are different. While we are still leaving Washington, more of these families than ever before are staying home, prevented from visiting places like the beaches and historic sites in my district because of rising energy costs. But we aren't doing anything about it.

And when school starts up again, students are going to see activities cut back because their school districts are having to move money from these important programs just to keep running their school buses. High energy costs are having a dramatic impact on every part of our society. But Congress is failing to address them.

Today, news came out that American employers shed some 51,000 jobs last month, and for so many companies, the burden of high energy prices are behind so many of these job losses. From steel mills to fertilizer plants and delivery services, I could list countless businesses that use energy not only to keep the lights on but as the fuel for getting their job done. And record high energy prices are fighting their best efforts to grow our economy. But we can't even have a vote on accessing more American energy.

Madam Speaker, I want to take a moment to highlight some of these businesses being impacted by today's high energy prices. I represent a coastal district where many of my constituents make their living on the water. The heart of my district are its shrimpers, tour boat operators, recreational and commercial fishermen.

However, many of these hard-working residents of coastal South Carolina cannot even afford to take their boats on the water anymore because of all-time record high prices for fuel. Shrimpers must catch 700 pounds a day just to fuel their boats—I can assure you, this is not a small catch.

Before Speaker PELOSI "saves the planet" here in Washington, DC, perhaps she can come down to Charleston or McClellanville in South Carolina and explain to the these hard-working men and women why she is refusing to schedule a vote to increase domestic energy production and lower the cost of their diesel fuel to allow them to get back on the water. Their struggles are not a hoax.

Madam Speaker, we currently depend on foreign and in many cases unfriendly nations for over 60 percent of our Nation's energy needs. This is a serious national security concern for my constituents in coastal South Carolina that is only getting worse. It is sad to see that every other country in the world views its energy resources as a strategic asset; in the United States we have come to view ours as an environmental liability.

Madam Speaker, this week I was proud to join with a group of Republicans and Democrats to introduce legislation that was written together that would allow us to start domestic energy production while also investing in many

types of renewable energy. When will we get a vote on the bipartisan National Environment, Conservation and Energy Independence Act or any of the other pieces of legislation that offer an "all of the above" solution to our energy crisis?

While we may leave Washington today, we cannot leave our responsibility to address this issue for the American people.

HANNAH WARFIELD AND JENNY BARRINGER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize two members of one of my Colorado offices, Hannah Warfield and Jenny Barringer.

These two are world-class athletes, from my alma mater, the University of Colorado, who recently competed in the U.S. Olympic track and field trials in Eugene, Oregon.

I want to start off by saying a few words about Hannah, a native of Sydney, Montana who competed in the Women's javelin competition.

Her work ethic is extraordinary.

Despite the rigors of a working a full time job, and recently graduating from the University of Colorado, she maintained a training schedule that would begin at 5 a.m. in the morning and would humble even the most dedicated among us.

This work ethic propelled her to become the 2007 NCAA Women's Big Twelve Champion in the Javelin event.

A distinction not achieved by a University of Colorado athlete in 20 years.

She is one of the most pleasant, organized and courteous individuals I have ever had the opportunity to meet.

Although, Hannah came just short of making it to Beijing, words cannot express the amount of pride and inspiration she brought to our office and our community with her dedication to the pursuit of her dreams.

Hannah's positive attitude and tenacity should serve as inspiration to all of us.

Next, I would like to take a moment to speak about Jenny Barringer, from Oviedo, Florida, who competed in the women's 3,000m steeplechase event.

Jenny is a true pioneer in the sport, which is making its inaugural appearance at the 2008 games.

She recently shattered the American record in the women's steeplechase with a time of 9:22.73.

If that were not enough, she maintains a 3.7 GPA, serves as a sign language interpreter, volunteers with the Ronald McDonald House, Habitat for Humanity, and the local adopt-a-road program.

I can attest that Coloradans will be watching with immense pride in the coming weeks as Jenny goes for the gold in the Beijing.

What impresses me most about Hannah and Jenny is that for as great as their athletic ability, they're ever better people.

Active in their communities, great students combined with a desire to go above and beyond what is expected, they serve as a positive example of what can be achieved with hard work and a positive attitude.